



**For immediate release  
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**Contact: Wendy Fox  
617-626-1453**

## **DCR HOLDING PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR CANTON AIRPORT SITE**

BOSTON - The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on Monday, June 21, to present an update on the design for the former Canton Airport site and plans to convert the former hanger area into public parkland.

“We are committed to turning this parcel into public parkland, both active and passive,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “It’s important that we continue to keep the public abreast of design plans and hear their thoughts on what they would like to see at the site.”

**The June 21 public meeting will be 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Trailside Museum, 1904 Canton Avenue, Milton, in the Blue Hills Reservation.**

In 1996, DCR acquired 328 acres at the former airport site. Five years later, a report commissioned by DCR identified significant PCB contamination in the 5.7-acre former hanger area. In 2006, the hangers were demolished, but PCBs and metals remain in the soil.

To create the parkland, DCR must first remove the soils most heavily contaminated with PCBs and heavy metals and cap the remaining areas containing them. The PCBs were released by former industrial users of the property. The heavy metals are chiefly lead from lead shot released during hunting activities. At the public meeting, DCR will provide an update on plans for remediation activities.

In addition to developing the site for parkland, DCR plans to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect public drinking water resources in the area. This will be DCR’s fourth public meeting to discuss the future of the airport site.

The entire former airport site sits within the Fowl Meadow Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). ACECs are places in Massachusetts that receive special recognition because of the quality, uniqueness, and significance of their natural and cultural resources. ACEC designation creates a framework for local and regional management of those resources.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston MA 02114-2119  
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax  
[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)



Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*